

**NEWSLETTERS**  
- **May 2004**

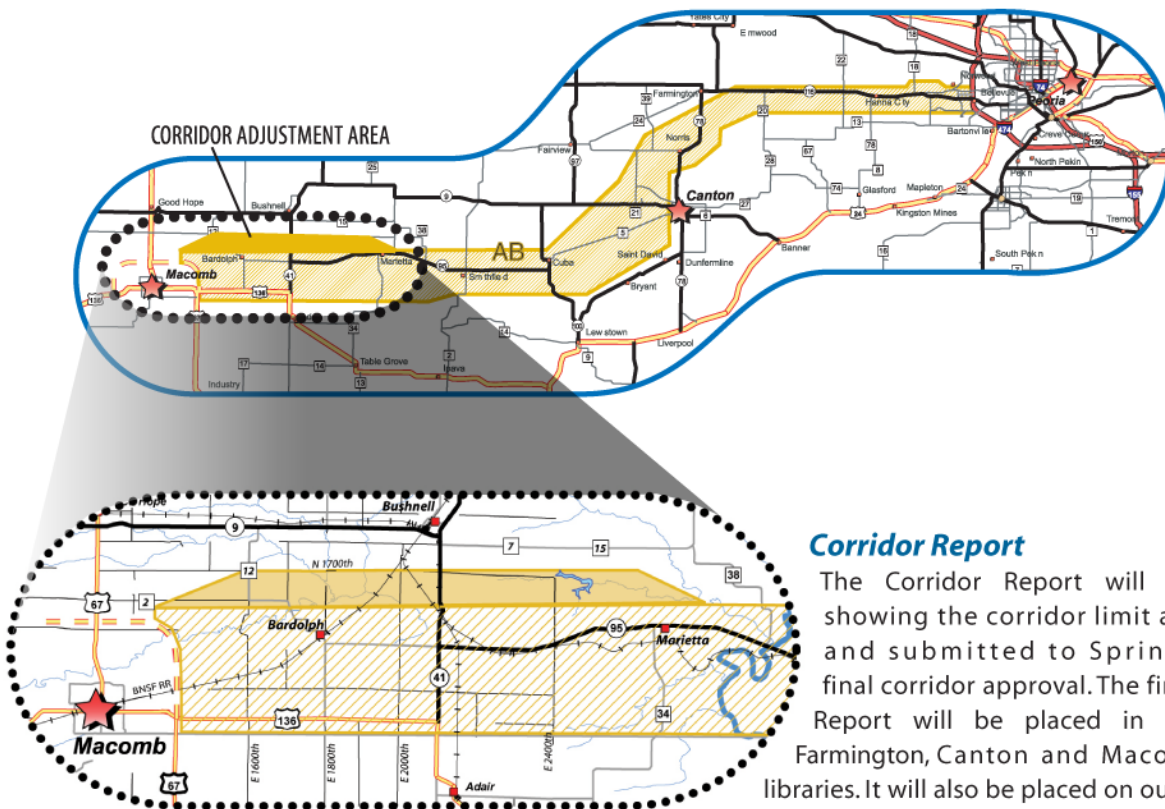
# Peoria to Macomb Highway Newsletter

May 2004

## Corridor Adjustment

The Illinois Department of Transportation held three open house public hearings in west-central Illinois in February to announce the selection of a preferred corridor for a new four-lane highway between Interstate 474 in Peoria and the planned Macomb bypass. Hearings were held on February 24 in Peoria, February 25th in Canton and February 26th in Macomb.

Over 700 people attended the meetings and over 250 people commented on the project during and following the meetings. In response to input from the public, IDOT has elected to modify the preferred corridor by expanding it in one area. As shown in the map below, the preferred corridor has been expanded approximately one mile north between Macomb and Marietta.



## Corridor Report

The Corridor Report will be revised showing the corridor limit adjustment and submitted to Springfield for final corridor approval. The final Corridor Report will be placed in the Peoria, Farmington, Canton and Macomb public libraries. It will also be placed on our website at [www.dot.state.il.us/denserv/env.html](http://www.dot.state.il.us/denserv/env.html).

## Alignment Development

Work is now proceeding on developing alignments (each about 300 feet wide) within the adjusted, selected corridor. Further public meetings and hearings will be scheduled to provide information and receive input on the project over the next 3 to 4 years. Over the next year or so you may notice people in the field doing environmental inventory and survey work.

**Please direct your comments or questions to:**

Mr. Eric Therkildsen, P.E.

Program Development Engineer

Illinois Department of Transportation • District 4

401 Main Street • Peoria, IL 61602

or call (309) 671-3333 • TDD (309) 671-3450



**Illinois Department of Transportation**

**NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS**

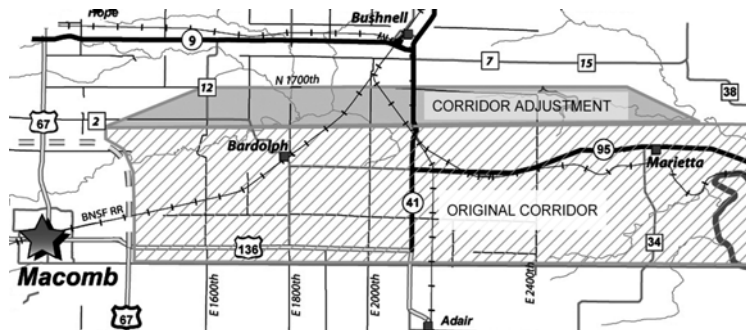
- **May 2004 Announcing Corridor Adjustment**



## Illinois Department of Transportation

### CORRIDOR ADJUSTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ILLINOIS 336 STUDY HIGHWAY FROM PEORIA TO MACOMB

In response to input from the public, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has elected to modify the preferred corridor for the Proposed Illinois 336 Four-Lane Highway Corridor, extending from I-474 in Peoria to Macomb, IL. The preferred corridor has been expanded approximately one mile north between Macomb and Marietta.



The Corridor Report will be revised showing the corridor limit adjustment and submitted to Springfield for final corridor approval. The final Corridor Report will be available for review in the Peoria, Farmington, Canton, and Macomb Public Libraries. It will also be placed on IDOT's website: [www.dot.state.il.us/desenv/env.html](http://www.dot.state.il.us/desenv/env.html)

Work is now proceeding on developing alignments within the adjusted corridor. Further public meetings and hearings will be scheduled to provide information and receive input on the project over the next 3 to 4 years. During the next year you may notice people in the field doing environmental and inventory work.

Please direct any comments or questions to:

Mr. Eric Therkildsen, P.E.

Program Development Engineer

Illinois Department of Transportation, District 4

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**ROUTE 336 POSITION PAPER**

## **ROUTE 336 POSITION PAPER**

**Re: Illinois Department of Transportation  
Peoria to Macomb Corridor Study  
Route 336**

**Issue: The proposed corridor for Route 336 fails to serve Bushnell, Illinois and isolates the largest city and employer between Canton and Macomb.**

### **Discussion:**

- ▶ IDOT's Design Manual stipulates that "effects on regional and community growth" should be considered when developing a highway improvement. (IDOT Bureau of Design and Environmental Manual, Chapter Eleven, Phase 1 Studies, 11-1.02)
- ▶ Bushnell is the largest city between Canton and Macomb, and compared to other villages on the proposed corridor, would experience the most economic growth and benefit from the highway.
- ▶ Bushnell:
  - ❖ Population of 3,221
  - ❖ Over 1500 employed in workforce
  - ❖ Major manufacturing facilities with over 600 employees
  - ❖ Many other manufacturing, construction, retail, wholesale and agricultural facilities and businesses
  - ❖ Transportation hub, with Illinois Routes 9 and 41, and Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railway
  - ❖ Bushnell owns and operates its own electric, natural gas and water facilities, with large excess capacity available
  - ❖ Large percentage of workers commute to/from work in Bushnell
- ▶ Villages on the proposed route have substantially lower populations, and no manufacturing facilities.
- ▶ The proposed route from Canton to Macomb is simply a repetition of the corridor study done in the 1970's, and fails to adequately consider the benefits Bushnell would experience with the addition of a major highway.

- ▶ By using Corridor A from Canton to Macomb, or by locating the proposed route to within at least one mile of the city limits, Bushnell would be properly served by the proposed highway, and more options for the corridor's entry into Macomb would then be available.
- ▶ The corridor as proposed is significantly different than the originally proposed corridor choices that were presented at the public meetings.
- ▶ Generally, cities more than one mile from a major highway will not experience the economic benefits that cities located closer will experience. The proposed corridor isolates Bushnell several miles from the route, and will negatively affect its current and future economic development.
- ▶ The designers of the proposed route have not articulated any substantial justification in choosing the proposed route and why Bushnell was not served.
- ▶ Tying Macomb and Bushnell directly with a four-lane highway will economically stimulate both cities and create a hub for economic development in West Central Illinois.

**POSITION PAPER ENDORSED BY THE FOLLOWING:**

- ✿ **Bushnell Economic Development Corporation**
- ✿ **Bushnell Chamber of Commerce**
- ✿ **City of Bushnell**
- ✿ **Macomb Area Economic Development Corporation**
- ✿ **Macomb Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee**